Awaruite

Crystal Data: Cubic. Point Group: 4/m \(\overline{3} m\). Massive; as pebbles, grains and flakes; rare crystals, to 4 mm. In meteorites as rims or regular intergrowths with kamacite.


Optical Properties: Opaque. Color: Silver- to grayish white, in reflected light. Luster: Metallic. Optical Class: Isotropic. R: (400) 54.4, (420) 56.0, (440) 57.6, (460) 59.1, (480) 60.4, (500) 61.4, (520) 62.4, (540) 63.1, (560) 63.8, (580) 64.4, (600) 64.8, (620) 65.2, (640) 65.5, (660) 65.7, (680) 66.1, (700) 66.4

Cell Data: Space Group: Fm\(\overline{3}m\). \(a = 3.545\text{-}3.560 \quad Z = 4\)

X-ray Powder Pattern: Awarua Bay, New Zealand. 2.044 (10), 1.772 (6), 1.069 (4), 1.253 (3), 1.023 (1), 0.814 (1), 0.792 (1)

Chemistry: (1) (2) (3) (4)
Ni 74.5 69.88 67.77 75.93
Fe 23.2 27.34 32.23 24.07
Co 0.8 2.78
Cu 0.2
Total 98.8 100.00 100.00 100.00

(1) Sakhakot-Qila complex, Pakistan; average of 4 electron microprobe analyses. (2) Heazlewood, Tasmania, Australia; recalculated after removal of 1.28% insolubles. (3) Ni\(_3\)Fe. (4) Ni\(_2\)Fe.

Occurrence: In chromitite associated with ultramafic igneous rocks; in river placers, from serpentinitized peridotites and ophiolites; rare in meteorites.

Association: Gold, magnetite (placers); copper, heazlewoodite, pentlandite, violarite, chromite, millerite (peridotites); kamacite, allabogdanite, schreibersite, graphite (meteorites).

Distribution: From the Red Hills and the Gorge River draining them, near Awarua Bay, south Westland, New Zealand. At Coolac, New South Wales, and in the Lord Brassey mine, Tasmania, Australia. From the Bobrovka River, Nizhni Tagil, Ural Mountains, Russia. In the Feragen ultramafic body, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway. From Vadu Dobrii, Poiana Ruscă Mountains, Romania. In the Elvo River, Piedmont, Italy. From Poschiavo, Bergell, Switzerland. In the USA, from Josephine and Jackson Cos., Oregon; South Fork, Smith River, Del Norte Co., California; and in the Line Pit mine, Cecil Co., Maryland. From the Lillooet district, Fraser River, British Columbia; and at Holle Canyon, Pelly River, Yukon Territory, Canada. From Oko, Kochi Prefecture, Japan. In the Sakhakot-Qila complex, Malakand Agency, Pakistan. A number of additional localities are known, many as widely dispersed occurrences in large ultramafic bodies.

Name: For the locality near Awarua Bay, New Zealand.

Type Material: Geological Survey of New Zealand, Lower Hutt, New Zealand (P21969).